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MEDIA STATEMENT

RAND WATER'S RESPONSE TO MR MSIMANGA'S UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS REGARDING RAND WATER'S INCOMPETENCE

Rand Water would like to express its concern and dismay at the malicious, unfair, and undeserved accusations levelled against it by Mr Solly Msimanga of the Democratic Alliance.

It is public knowledge that some areas of Gauteng province have been experiencing intermittent water supply challenges, largely as a result of high-water consumption created by soaring summer temperatures. It is also known that the country is experiencing loadshedding which also cause residual electricity supply problems. These factors have a direct impact on some municipalities' ability to supply sufficient water to supply high lying areas.

As part of water supply value chain protocols, Rand Water and its municipal customers have a tradition of holding meetings at various levels of management structures. These meetings are aimed at activating interventions and resolving operational challenges within the value chain.

Over and above these interactions with municipalities, Rand Water led by the Chairperson of the Board Mr Ramateu Monyokolo, and the Chief Executive Mr Siphosiso Mosai held several high-level meetings with the Executive Mayors of Tshwane Metro, Ekurhuleni Metro and Johannesburg Metro [Chairperson of Johannesburg Water] to discuss the recent water supply disruptions. Meetings were aimed at consolidating our common understanding and responses to the water supply challenges during peak water demands and power supply challenges.

Rand Water also used these platforms to reassert its commitment to existing bulk water supply agreements as well as making its technical expertise to work with municipalities in ensuring that water reaches all communities. Rand Water shared its operational systems performance which reflects plant reliability of over 80% and plant availability of over 90% as well as the consistent ability to supply 5 000 megalitres per day.

Furthermore, Rand Water wishes to unequivocally state that during planned maintenance which might affect water supply, municipalities are informed 21 days prior to the planned maintenance. It is also important to mention that Rand Water does provide reservoir levels updates to individual municipalities and therefore they are aware of the severity and the impact of high consumption.

The unwarranted attacks and continued opportunistic politicisation of water supply from Mr. Msimanga are not helping to resolve the current situation. The situation requires collaboration and integrated approach by all stakeholders and not finger pointing.

As bulk water service provider, we remain committed to partnering with our stakeholders to resolve challenges that characterise our entire value chain as we have done so for the last 120 years.

Media enquiries contact Ms Makenosi Maroo: 072 545 5041 / [**mmaroo@randwater.co.za**](mailto:mmaroo@randwater.co.za)